Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting color misregistration in an image forming system comprising:

forming a registration patch with the image forming system on a recording medium;

calculating or selecting a combined color value for the registration patch;

performing spectrophotometric analysis on the registration patch to detect a detected color value;

determining if color misregistration has occurred by comparing the detected color value with the combined color value; and

obtaining a degree of color misregistration based on known dimensions of the registration patch and an amount of color shift that is represented by a ΔE color difference, between the detected color value and the combined color value.

2. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 1, the forming a registration patch further comprising:

forming the registration patch in a combination of colors having a composite color value equivalent to the calculated or selected color value.

3. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 1, further comprising generating an output signal in response to determining if color misregistration has occurred.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 3, wherein the output signal indicates whether the image forming system is performing within satisfactory limits.

5. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 1, the performing spectrophotometric analysis further comprising scanning the registration patch with a spectrophotometric device.

6. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 1, wherein the forming a registration patch comprises forming a registration patch which has at least two superimposed colors formed in a line perpendicular to a direction of color misregistration.

7. (Original) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 1, further comprising performing an adjustment operation if it is determined that an unacceptable level of color misregistration has occurred.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming system capable of detecting and adjusting for color misregistration comprising:

a plurality of image forming stations, each image forming station forming an image in one color;

a charge retentive surface which receives each image from its corresponding image forming station and transfers the combined image to a recording medium as a registration patch;

a spectrophotometric device either attached to or integral to the image forming system; and

a controller that causes the spectrophotometric device to perform detection of color misregistration based on known dimensions of the registration patch and an amount of color shift that is represented by a ΔE color difference, on at least one registration patch by comparing a detected color value of the registration patch that is detected by the spectrophotometric device to a combined color value of the registration patch that is calculated or selected.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the controller further implements an adjustment to reduce detected misregistration.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the image forming system is a digital photocopier.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the image forming system is an ink jet printer.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the image forming system is a laser printer.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the image forming system is one of a facsimile machine and a combination facsimile machine and printer machine.

14. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 9, wherein the registration patch is formed in a combination of colors having a composite color value equivalent to the combined color value.

15. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 9, further comprising an output signal which indicates results of the detection of the color misregistration.

16. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 15, wherein the output signal indicates whether the image forming system is performing within satisfactory limits.

17. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 9, wherein the image forming system performs spectrophotometric analysis, the spectrophotometric analysis comprising:

scanning the registration patch with the spectrophotometric device; and

obtaining a degree of color misregistration between the detected color value detected by the spectrophotometric device and the combined color value.

18. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 9, wherein the registration patch comprises at least two superimposed colors formed in a line perpendicular to a direction of color misregistration.

19. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 9, further comprising at least one adjustment operation, wherein the adjustment operation is able to alter an image forming process of at least one of the plurality of image forming stations if a spectrophotometric analysis indicates that color misregistration has occurred.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for forming images on a recording medium;

means for creating at least one registration patch having a combined color value;

means for performing spectrophotometric analysis on the at least one registration patch to detect a detected color value;

means for determining if color misregistration has occurred on images formed by the means for forming images by comparing the detected color value to the combined color value;

means for adjusting an image forming process to adjust for the color misregistration; and

means for obtaining a degree of color misregistration based on known dimensions of the registration patch and an amount of color shift that is represented by a ΔE color difference, between the detected color value and the combined color value.